

16. (Once amended) A process for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk as described in claim 13, including fabricating an intermediate thickness DLC layer portion between said initial DLC layer portion and said subsequent DLC layer portion, wherein said intermediate thickness DLC layer portion is fabricated utilizing a relatively mid-range carbon ion beam energy between said relatively low carbon ion beam energy and said relatively high carbon ion beam energy.

22. (Once amended) A method for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk comprising [the steps of]:

- fabricating a magnetic material layer upon a material surface of a substrate;
- fabricating a diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer upon said magnetic layer, wherein said DLC layer is fabricated by:
  - depositing carbon ion species upon said magnetic layer utilizing a relatively low carbon ion beam energy of from approximately 10 eV to approximately 20 eV, to deposit an initial DLC layer thickness;
  - subsequently increasing the carbon ion beam energy level as the thickness of said DLC layer increases due to deposition of carbon ion species within said DLC layer, such that higher energy carbon ion beam species become implanted within said DLC layer thickness.